

Ecosystem restoration

Many of the state parks were acquired by the state with pre-existing environmental issues requiring correction. Historical activities such as ditching and diking to drain land, and planting of pine plantations for commercial forestry to name just two require intervention to restore natural ecosystem processes. Disrupted systems often have lower biodiversity and lowered resistance to natural disturbances such as storms, fire, and insects.

The natural resources program seeks to restore damaged systems through active management. The program prioritizes sites in need of restoration, writes restoration plans, and implements restorative actions. The program has undertaken projects including stream restoration, hydrology restoration on large tracts, timber management, and rare plant relocation. The natural resources program staff has expertise in a number of fields and does thorough literature searches but frequently goes outside the division to seek expert advice when needed.